



A SANCTUARY FOR AGELESS HERMITS"

As we ventured deeper into the mist-shrouded mountains, I couldn't shake the feeling that there was yet another destination awaiting us.

Our quest was to uncover the faint glimmer of those captivating tales, once vividly recounted but now dismissed, from the bygone era of America's youth - a time that esteemed scholarly journals referred to as the late 1950s.

Indeed, it is undeniable that this unexpected escapade materialized solely due to the

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pressing necessity of departing from town, transforming it into a genuine adventure. It became evident that our mission was to uncover and unravel the enigmatic and ominous significance behind the lyrics in the captivating melody of adolescent courtship, known as "Teen Angel," according to the esteemed sage Bubba. Driven by an intense desire to delve into the exploitation of American Cultural Progress through audacious actions, we

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embarked on a quest to revive its essence or, at the very least, acquire some spare change. Venturing through the meandering curves of the mountain's foothills and traversing its desolate plains, scattered with charred and decaying timber, we embarked on a search for the Timeless recluse, a peculiar Jesuit-like figure. This timeless recluse was banished to these decaying planks by his own church. He was shunned for his celestial perspective on nature and his

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profound understanding of the spiritual realm.

Additionally, his habit of reading comic books in the confessional further fueled his exile.

Banished from his prestigious role as a food taster for the reigning Pope, he plummeted from his lofty position.

The loss of his esteemed status within the church compelled him to embrace a more modest existence, much like the spiritual journey pursued by both the revered figure, Holly man Bubba, and myself.

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However, unlike the notion of reincarnation as withered raisins, we did not share the belief that we would reemerge in this world as shriveled remnants of California's vineyards. According to the tourist guide we stumbled upon, at Howard Johnson's, the Ageless Hermit has embraced a more simplistic lifestyle and now discusses Zen philosophy as casually as we talk about the weather. It seems like we were led to the Ageless Hermit's sanctuary by

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some cosmic force, as indicated by the four stars marking his retreat.

We owe our success in locating the Ageless Hermit and his esteemed assembly of Nature's Inner Circle primarily to the map we acquired from a generous gentleman by the name of Mr. Bud. Mr. Bud is a renowned figure in Burnt Woods, celebrated for his Exxon Station's complimentary restroom facilities and his remarkable ability to heal Buicks and Chevies for a mere \$14.95.

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However, it's worth noting that Fords require an additional \$5.50 for his exceptional services. Mr. Bud enlightened us with his intriguing statement, revealing that there are numerous demons lurking within the Ford cars. "It wouldn't be astonishing to stumble upon the ethereal presence of the legendary old man Ford himself, entwined within the depths of one of these magnificent vehicles." I was truly amazed by the immense dedication Mr. Bud

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showed towards the vehicles in our community.

It felt as though he possessed a divine power, bestowed upon him by God, to banish the malevolent forces that not only crippled the vehicles but also posed a grave threat to the entire vehicle industry here in Amerika.

It fills me with immense joy to envision a future where Mr. Bud's franchises will spread across the nation, bringing the benevolent touch of goodness to every gas station in the land.

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I handed over a pamphlet to Mr. Bud, enlightening him about the profound teachings of the Holly Elephant.

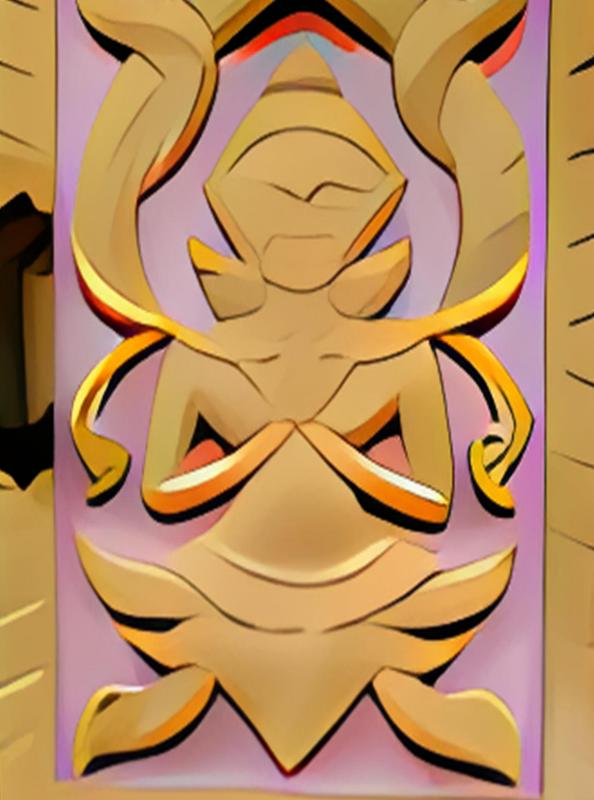
As we resumed our journey, it was evident that Mr. Bud had already embarked on his path to mastering the enchanting "Dance of Joy."

I cannot stress enough how much I endorse Mr. Bud's exceptional, top-notch restrooms, each adorned with captivating images of vehicles that he has restored and returned to the path of safe driving.

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While you're there, make sure to stop by the station office and take a peek at the framed pictures showcasing all the renowned individuals who have visited Mr. Bud's to find solace for their troubled vehicles. The highlight of his collection was a portrait of the renowned songstress, Miss Kate Smith, who found herself in an unfortunate predicament, stuck on the toilet. "And, quite rightly," Mr. Bud's son confided in me, "It took my dad and most of the Fire Department

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a good 20 minutes to free her and gracefully extricate her from the bathroom..."

"After that," Mr. Bud Jr. continued his tale, disregarding the clamor of impatient customers fretting over the petrol spilling from their vehicle tanks:

"That's when my dad decided to have those extra-large bathroom stalls installed. He was always concerned that Orson Welles or even Jackie Gleason might drop by and need to use the facilities..."

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Mr. Bud's genuine concern for the bathroom rights of the overweight and famous truly moved me.

If you happen to travel on our route, I encourage you to take a moment and refuel your vehicle, while also experiencing the same seat that once accommodated the renowned Miss Kate Smith. It was truly a moment of great honor for me to have had the privilege of sitting on the very same toilet that had once been graced by countless celebrities and affluent individuals.

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As we approached the Ageless
Hermit's sanctuary just outside
Burnt Woods, we encountered no
obstacles whatsoever, thanks to
the massive roadside sign
promoting his gift shop and snack
bar.

Due to our ongoing financial constraints, we made the decision not to participate in the sevendollar-per-person guided tour of his small museum or embark on the rejuvenating "get back into the Zen" hike through the decaying remnants of what was once a vibrant forest.

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Instead, we decided to explore the gift shop and ended up investing some of our valuable money in buying a copy of the authentic Hermit Cookbook. As we made our way out of the Zen-to-You gift shop, the Hermit's voice resonated through the speakers of the store's sound system, capturing our attention. Immersed in the surround sound of his profound teachings, we found ourselves seated on the floor of aisle number four, engrossed in his words for more

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than an hour.

Bubba, the wise holly man, stood up and exclaimed, "What a blatant and clumsy ploy..." towards the speaker nearby.

He turned to the cashier at the store and expressed his deep offense, while purchasing a full collection of tapes and two exquisite Zen Master cotton shirts.

With a hint of disdain, he left the gift shop behind.

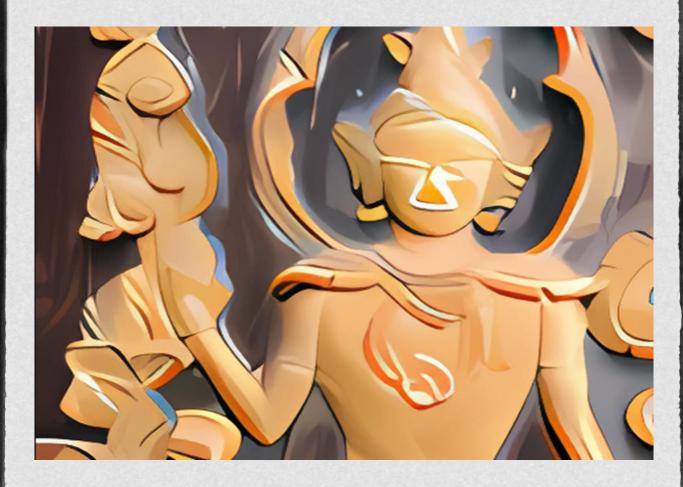
The words floated in and out, forming a perplexing pattern that

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Bubba claimed was a feeble attempt to manipulate us into making purchases.



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启迪之路 2

TEMPLE OF THE EIGHT IMMORTALS

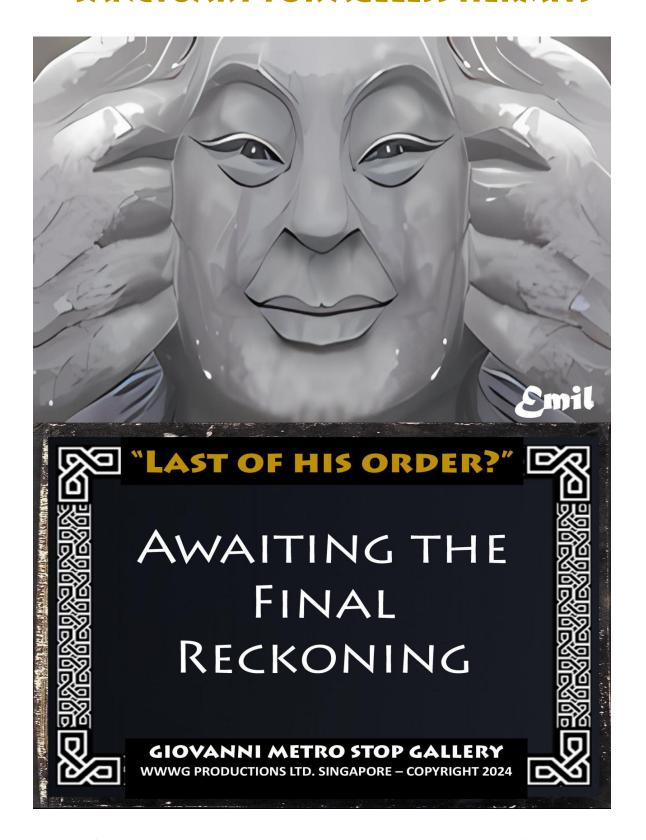


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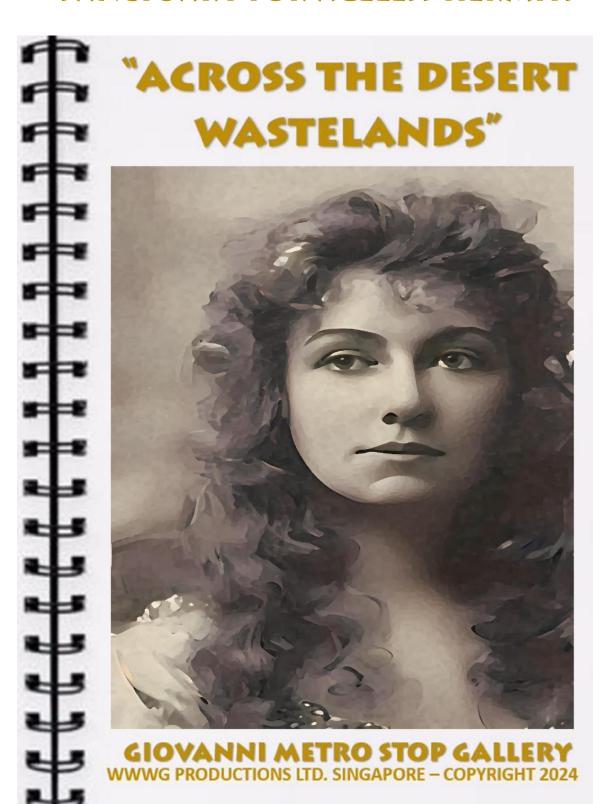
"The Black Swan Came Seeking Atonement"



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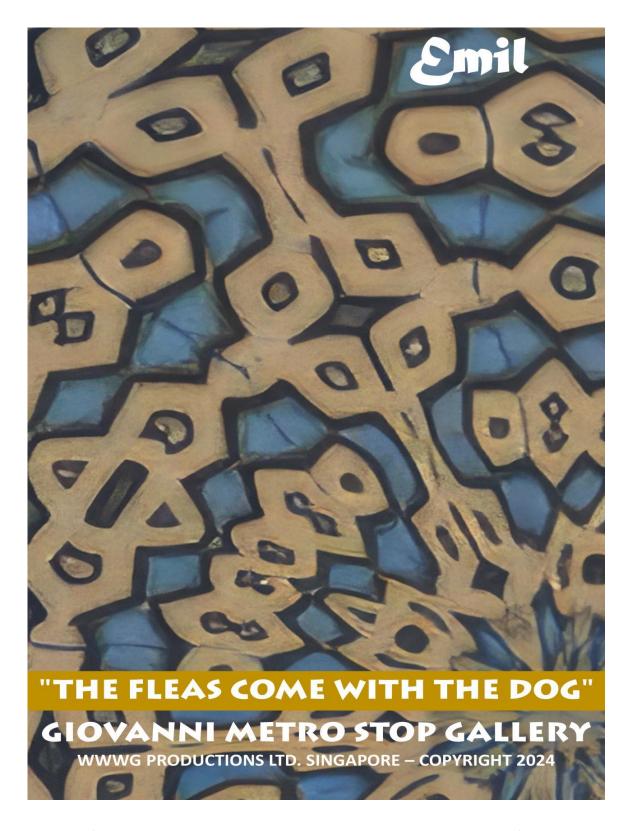
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